

Dear Parents of Previous Lion King Jr. Cast and Crew Members,

We are excited to announce that we have gotten permission from the school and district to begin the drama program at Burton Elementary again! We have decided the quickest and best way to do this is to bring back last year's cast and crew to perform The Lion King, Jr. We would like to invite **ALL** of the cast and crew members who participated last year to come back and participate with us this year. Mrs. Lowry has given us permission to have our 7th graders come back as well as any previous cast or crew members who do not go to our school this year but are willing to commit to the rehearsal schedule and performances. We are excited for this unique opportunity! We need to be informed of your decision on whether or not you would like your child(ren) to participate by **Monday, March 15**, with a return email or signed permission slip that will be sent home with your child.

We know this may be really exciting for some students and parents and more difficult for others. We know this year will be different, and the play will probably not look exactly the same as last year, but we really want our kids to be able to show what they have learned and feel a little more closure from last year, but especially have a lot of fun! We loved seeing talents develop last year and can't wait for them to show them off!

We understand that this may be difficult to let your child do again this year. We want you to know we support what you and your child decide, and we know every family situation is different. Last year brought on hardships in many forms, and this year has not let up too much yet. We are happy to welcome your kids back if at all possible, but we know this won't work for every family. If you or your child has a desire to do the play again this year, but you don't see the logistics working out, please let us know and we can talk with others to possibly come up with a solution that can accommodate most.

Change in Directors:

We are so happy that our directors, especially Barbara Knudsen, did so much for the play last year to where our kids were all ready to perform an amazing play! Barbara tried so hard to get the kids to be able to do the play or at least have it filmed, but the rules were very strict last Spring. Luckily, we have the opportunity to put it on this year, but our directors have changed because of jobs, moving, schooling, etc. This year, our new directors are **Melissa Gause and Brittany Christianson**. The district allowed schools all over to start up with drama programs just this week, and we can't wait to start ours! Please be patient with us as we do not have as much experience as the other wonderful directors, but with a little experience and a lot of desire to give the kids another wonderful performance, we are ready and excited to put on this play!

Casting and Behavior:

Casting will remain the same. We encourage all cast members to return, but cast member lead roles that do not come back will first be filled by the opposite casts' actor/actress. We may open up other roles to chorus members that want to take on the added challenge of learning a

part in a short period of time, but that will be up to the directors by invitation only after the first rehearsals. Leads should plan on bringing their scripts back to rehearsals if they still have them. We are still keeping Cast A (last year's 3/5) and Cast B (last year's 4/6).

We have a short period of time with lots to remember, so we expect the students to be on their best behavior as we move quickly through scenes. We will try to keep things moving as quickly as possible so that behavior problems should not be an issue. We expect all cast and crew members to be on their best behavior at play practices and performances.

COVID restrictions/Big Five:

According to the Davis School District, all school related programs must adhere to the Big Five: Hygiene Etiquette (hand sanitizing), Stay Home when Sick, Face Coverings (Masks will be required at all rehearsals and performances when kids are not on stage, no snacks are to be eaten unless we are taking a break outside), Physical Distancing (kids will be spaced apart, rehearsals will be as small of groups as possible, Zoom meetings will be utilized), Clean and Disinfect (Students will help sanitize high touch points, makeup will not be shared, costumes will be sanitized before sharing). We will enforce these policies!

Rehearsals:

We will have rehearsals on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30-4:30 pm. Because of Covid-19 restrictions, we will keep the groups as small as possible and use online resources such as Zoom or Teams to rehearse as well. If the cast members are not meeting at the school for rehearsal, they may need to meet over Zoom to practice lines, songs, or dances to prepare for their next in-person rehearsal. Zoom calls will happen from 4-4:30 and students will use their school iPads at home to participate. Rehearsals for all cast and crew members will start on Tuesday, March 16 where a schedule will be given out. A tentative schedule is attached to this email. It is important to have every student at every practice, so unavoidable absences need to be excused beforehand.

Parent meeting:

We will have a parent meeting to pass along any other information you may need as well as to answer any questions you may have the best we can. This meeting will be Tuesday, March 16, at 7:30 pm over Zoom and the link will be sent to everyone who is receiving this email also. We encourage everyone who is having their child participate in the play to come to this meeting. We will also be asking for parent volunteers so we can make this performance work in a short period of time.

Costumes and makeup:

Costumes will be the same as last year, but we will need volunteers to help with refitting them. We also plan on keeping everything labeled and sanitizing as needed. Please note that makeup will need to be done at home this year because of Covid, so instruction sheets will be sent home before dress rehearsals. We hope to have a makeup volunteer to help with those that have concerns as well.

Performances and tickets:

We will have two performances, one for each cast, scheduled on Wednesday, May 19th and Thursday the 20th, with dress rehearsals the same week on that Monday and Tuesday. Tickets will be limited but we will try to live-stream this event. We are also hoping to have a digital recording made to send to the cast as well. For now, we are not planning on charging for tickets or the live stream. We know many of you already paid for tickets that you never got to use and still graciously donated the money to the drama program, so we feel like there should be no charge for tickets. Also, there will be no costume fees unless there is a need for a small fee for matching masks. Feel free to still donate to the program if you would like, but no fees will be required this year!

If you have any questions, please let us know and we will try to answer them. Because of the change in directors, we may not have all the answers, but we will try! Thank you for your patience as we work through this together. We are so excited to work with your children and create another memorable experience!